

New York, 17 Nov^r. 1847.

My dear Gray - Your letter (not your writing paper) of Saturday Evng. reached me last afternoon, covering my specimen of *Woodia flabella* which I supposed, as a matter of course, would have been illuminated - However, it is probable that you now consider me an élève of the "Rumford" School, & upon principles of chivalry & equity thoroughly recognized within the classical precincts of St. M. Castle of Newgate - "Dog eat Dog is a poor trade" - I did ~~not~~ get your br., as to our Roch^r. friend, & his last Caricog. & I "kept silence because I had nothing to say" as you surmise - What could I say? What could be said, but that I had read the lucubration, & derived from it all the light which it was capable of transmitting! I do not allow myself to doubt that our friend is a kind-hearted, well-disposed man, but for the rest, - - - & certainly in your recent case he has been unusually oblivious - I believe I mentioned to you my conviction that he does actually, at times, forget his own published species, as well as those of others; & I can readily understand that he may also forget the sources of any information which may present itself as a new light to his mind. My last letter but one, (which you never noticed in your subsequent one, by the way) told you all about his published & unpublished statements respecting his *C. mirata*, of which he sent me two (I think different *perisquia*) - well - I wrote him in reply, contrasting his statements,

to me, in litt. with those published by himself & Torr. & was told in reply that all was straight-forward enough, except that he was received as to Sartwell being the source of the plant in question! Upon the whole, therefore, I am determined to give our friend "a wide berth" & not to cross him or interfere with him, further, as to this his hobby; which he may ride (for me) jup mountains & over seas to his heart's content - I have told him, in terms that when he gets my work, he may "write me down an ass", without the possibility of offending me, for I will not be offended by him, let him do, say, or write what he will - re caricibus - As to getting you specimens of *Woodсия glabella* from Vasey, as the condition of being "called a gentleman" by you; why you must even call me a varlet or what likes you else, for truly I am in no way of getting them for myself - The good man has not addressed me for some 18 mos. I believe, not even to acknowledge a few plants & a letter I sent him - I suppose he is huffed about some slight, to some of his discoveries, or what not; for I have not the slightest idea what can have offended him - Truly, my dear Gray, I am sick to death of these petty jealousies; & do not desire as a friend or correspondent any one who has not confidence enough in me to feel assured of my good will & frank intentions towards him - And now of pleasanter matters - Your talk about *Avena striata* brought to my mind, what I hope you noticed in your Herb. as I think I called your attention to it, by a note, when arranging your Gram. 2 yrs. ago - You have a specimen (I think from Schumann) of what he calls *Avena flavescens*, which I thought corresponded exactly

with a fragment you have "ex herb. Schreb." (illuminated?) labelled by you "*flora avenae pennsylvanicae him. a Kalnis lecti*" - I find only this men. in my herb. & a piece of the Schumann plant - but none of Kalnis - I had not then learnt the (X) system - You have also a queer *Panicum* from "Macou-M. Mead" which I have labelled *P. autumnale*, Boscw. I think on the authority of something you brought from Europe, but my Crebidge does not amount to much, & as I did not note the authority, I have forgotten about it - You will say you have nothing to do with *M. Mead*, but probably the same thing is in Ohio - I have a further faint remembrance of some quiddity I noticed in connection with a 1-flowered grass (a sort of a *Trilobaria* thing), but for the life of me I cannot remember what it was, & last night I turned over my herb. but found nothing to refresh my memory - a proof that one's education is not complete, without attending a "Rumford" course - If you should tell me all this is too late for the Book; I reply, I send it as soon as ever I thought of it - & for the rest, if you have not consulted your herb. whilst "doing" the Gram. you ought to have done so, & there you would meet with these & divers other bright hints from my pen, I doubt not - I never knew what *Frisetium* really is; & agree with Hook. (I think) that Botanists will be apt to take their own views as to the species comprised in it - Deschampsia again, as disting. from *Arida*, what do you say about it? Can you not lend me a set of rough sheets of the Gram.? I do not want to wait 6 months before I see them - I send you mail as you, in your turn, are no gentleman - I have got, by private hand, a capital letter from Boott, a perfect treatise, which I will send you on to read - Poor *Carex gracilis*, it seems will not "stay put", & we were going a-head "too fast in (our) doings" - I say our, because I assented to what you said - gave my important "ditto to Mr. Burke" - I have written Boott, acknowledging the papers

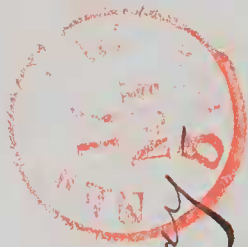
received thro' you, & his last treatise - He is a good & a capital
fellow - I have written to Olney (~~Thro'~~ whom I hope to get at Vasey)
also to Krieskern (from whom I expect an answer in less
than 10 years, perhaps in 6) to send me such Carices as our
Dear good Baott wants, & what they cannot furnish I
shall strip my own collec^{on} to supply, that he may have
all we can do for him, & which he so well deserves - You
may therefore say, if you write very shortly, that I am
doing my possible in the matter, & as he & you & I do
at least understand each other, it matters not from which
of us he gets them - If contrary to my hopes I cannot get
any of the plant with the euphonous name, nor yet of
C. Woodii, you must try (your friend?) Wood, who lives
I believe in poor Dr. Crane's Country - I will let you know
by & bye whether you need apply to him - I wrote to him,
at your suggestion, soon after the fire but he vouchsafed
no reply to my letter, whatever - Perhaps he was offended because
I asked how I could send him a copy of yr. "text Bk" - I know not.
As to my doings in Carex - If any body questions you on
the subject, refer them to me - & I have an answer
stereotyped - "what I wrote I certainly thought at the time
of writing; whether, if I were now reviewing the ground, I
should alter my opinion in any points, I cannot say;
but in the meantime, what the Book says, in reference
to any & every species, I say, be it right or wrong, till
I give equal publicity to a change of opinion" - If any
philosophers will insist upon sending me specimens & quiddities,
to resolve - I shall esteem it a personal insult, & demand
satisfaction, or light my pipe with their nippies - There is the book.
Why should I "eat their dirt" ? I have written myself into "Ereles
us in" but having also written to the end of my sheets, I come down from my

Stilts & will "read you like a sucking dove" to send
love to dear Lady J. & affec^d regards to you -

Oakes sent me his prospectus, & I really feel annoyed
that I know no one here to whom I could present it
for subscrip^{ns}! - This is one of the annoy^{es} of living
entirely out of the world - Give my regards to him
when you see him - I shall write him shortly -

This is written at the Exchange, by which
you will see that business is not very active -
Indeed, the late news from England, with
the probable continu^{ce} of the war in Mex^o:
have quite suspended business, for a time -

Business men feel very anxious, just now,
as to the prospects for the winter -



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